



Disability History and Awareness Month 2023

Patrisha Wright

Patrisha Wright, otherwise known as “The General,” is a legend among disability rights activists – having a hand in many of the landmark victories for people with disabilities that have occurred at the federal level in the last 50 years.



The most notable of her many efforts was spearheading the Americans with Disabilities Act. Critical to this effort was Wright’s work in cementing disability rights as civil rights within the disabled community and more broadly. The acceptance of disability as a civil right helped foster a growing acceptance of people with disability nationally and allowed for the passage of prior legislation, such as the Handicapped Children’s Protection Act of 1986, disability protections to the Fair Housing Act, and the establishment of accessibility and adaptability principles for multifamily dwellings. Wright also led grassroots efforts to successfully stop the deregulation of section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act.

Through her ongoing career in disability activism, Wright has worked across party lines with every administration since Regan to deliver results for the disabled community. She recognized an important truth, the well-being of people with disabilities is not an issue of politics or party, and disability does not care about one’s voting history or the letter next to one’s name.

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